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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Morton Kondracke Show STATION WRC Radio

DATE September 5, 1981 11:08 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Interview with Cord Meyer

MORTON KONDRACKE: Our subject for this hour is the CIA. The intelligence agency is out now again recruiting bright college graduates into our international relations and language specialists. Would you want your son or daughter to join the CIA? Do you think that whatever post-Vietnam hangover there was in the CIA's reputation is now over and it's now time to get the best people in America again joining the CIA? Do you think it's an honorable profession?

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KONDRACKE: Our guest is Cord Meyer, syndicated columnist, 26-year veteran of CIA service, former CIA station chief in London, and author of the book "Facing Reality: From World Federalism to the CIA."

Cord Meyer, you obviously, I assume, think that service in the CIA is an honorable thing to do. Why?

CORD MEYER: Well, I think that a considerable majority in our country today would agree that we do need an effective intelligence service in the United States, in view of the dangers that exist abroad. It seems clear to me, and I think to many other Americans, that if we do not have accurate, timely information as to what's transpiring both as far as what the Soviets are up to and what's going on in the Third World, which is in turmoil, that the policies, the foreign policy of our government can be badly mistaken, it can get us into an enormous amount of trouble. And the most -- the really front-line necessity is to have as accurate and timely information as possible as to what's coming, so that a policy can be developed that can head off crisis, a crisis if possible, and deal with it prudently and intelligently